

Abstract

sub. #07 Percutaneous tissue removal apparatus comprises a
flexible drill shaft, a cutting tip mounted on the shaft
for placement adjacent a tissue mass for cutting the
5 tissue, means for transmitting motion to the shaft to move
the cutting tip against the tissue to cut tissue fragments
from the tissue, and means for removing the tissue
fragments along the shaft by suction to a location outside
the tissue mass while cutting. The apparatus may include
10 means for collecting one or more selected components of
the harvested tissue fragments for implantation of the
fragments preferably into the body of the patient from
whom they were removed. Where the tissue to be cut is
bone, a cutting tip is preferably made of a polymeric
15 material which is softer than the cortical portion of the
bone, although the cutting tip may be made of a ceramic or
a composite material. A second flexible shaft may be
provided either within or about the flexible drill shaft.
The harvested tissue fragments may be implanted in the
20 donor patient's body.

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